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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WHOLE AFRICA REGION

African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (RAF/78/050)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of approval :	March 1979
Starting date of project activities :	April 1979
Planned completion date :	December 1981
To be executed by :	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Government implementing agencies :	African Engineering Institutions
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval :	$500 000
Source of UNDP financing :	Regional Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. In January 1974, UNESCO convened the Conference of Ministers of African Member States responsible for the application of Science and Technology to Development (CASTAFRICA) in Dakar, Senegal, with the co-operation of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Various recommendations arose therefrom concerning the training of African scientific and technological personnel, including specific means through increased co-operation towards strengthening African institutions and fostering collaboration among national universities.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

2. As one immediate follow-up, UNESCO organized a mission which visited 19 African countries and concluded in favour of establishing a network of centres for science and technology to play the role of catalyst in the exchange at the post-graduate level.

3. A first meeting of experts representing institutions in higher-level engineering education in Africa was convened at the UNESCO Regional Office of Science and Technology (ROSTA) Nairobi, Kenya, in 1976, which established a list of all eligible participating Institutions and of particular disciplines in which significant results could be expected. A second meeting of experts took place in December 1978, which finalized the structures and the functions of the intended Network.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The development objective of the project is to promote close and active collaboration between African Engineering, Scientific and Higher Educational Institutions involved in post-graduate training and research through the establishment of a Network of African Institutions, as part of the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development. The disciplines selected are as follows: agricultural, civil, chemical, electrical, mechanical, energy, water resources, mining and geological, and metallurgical engineering.

5. The Network will comprise a Management Committee made up of all representatives of the Co-ordination Institutions designated for each of the disciplines. It will be funded through fees contributed by the participating Institutions, and will cover the following functions: communications, training, research and development, administration, and policy formulation. At the conclusion of the preliminary phase, the Secretariat of the Network will be taken over by the Association of African Universities (AAU), which will then appoint the Regional Co-ordinator.

III. Inputs

6. In the preparatory phase, UNESCO's Regional Office of Science and Technology in Africa (ROSTA) will provide its facilities for launching the Network as well as a project co-ordinator, under UNDP's financing, Various short-term consultants will be assigned to assist the Co-ordinating Institutions in specialized areas of research work and training. A provision has also been allocated for the exchange of visiting professors in the Africa Region.

IV. Financial data

7. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	$
Personnel	338 900
Training	125 500
Equipment	14 600
Miscellaneous	21 000
	500 000